

THE PACIFIC
COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER

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EDITOR

WEDNESDAY

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A BIT OF PETTIFOGGING.

The notice printed elsewhere and signed by Mr. Howland, inviting "all those who have criticised or condemned work done in connection with the construction of the Nuuanu reservoir dam No. 4," to go to the dam this morning and "point out the location of any and all poor work," strikes us as a theatrical appeal to the galleries. Aside from Mr. Tenney and Mr. Goodale, men of experience in reservoir building, we know of no one who has taken the trouble to go on the ground and study the method of dam construction, nor was it necessary that any layman should do so. When an inspector under Mr. Howland reported that bad work was being done and covered up and told where and how, that of itself was enough to warrant the public comment which followed; and when the contractor who is building the dam said the inspector was right and that he himself was getting alarmed at the many changes and counter-changes which Engineer Howland had made in the specifications, the public demand which arose to stop work on the dam until an unbiased engineer had passed on the plans and the structure did not require any preliminary lay examinations to justify it. What does an inexperienced layman know of the technicalities of dam building, anyhow? Nevertheless when the official inspector and the contractor agree that the dam has been badly put together, any layman, especially one whose property lies below the dam, is entirely right in calling a halt for investigation.

This "calling a halt" is the crux of the popular campaign. Those who did the calling are satisfied with their part in the affair and are now waiting for Mr. Patterson and Mr. Whitehouse to point out the structural defects in the dam which those competent gentlemen have observed. Meanwhile the stage waits.

We repeat that the critical attitude of the public is not due to technical knowledge which it possesses about the building of dams but to confidence in the knowledge and candor of the men on the ground who have made the charges. Hence if Engineer Kellogg does not find the dam lined with taxpayers this morning intent upon showing him where to find engineering faults or blunders he need not draw the inferences which Mr. Howland would like him to receive. The public, let it be known, has neither originated nor made charges against the quality of Mr. Howland's work. It has merely received and discussed them and called for an adjudicator. The adjudicator is here, the witnesses are with him, the dam awaits his verdict. Gallery plays, of which Mr. Howland is fertile, have nothing to do with the case.

GOOD CHEER FOR THE SMALL FARMER.

Despite the forebodings of those who are opposed to small farming, and who predicted the collapse of the sisal industry, Hawaii's export of fibers is steadily increasing. And sisal is making good in quality as well as quantity. In many respects the Hawaiian product is better than that of Yucatan and is preferred by the United States authorities for the basis of experiments in its cultivation elsewhere.

Pineapples are doing splendidly and it will be news to most people that next year's pack at Wahiawa promises to equal the entire American consumption of pineapples last year. Happily for the industry the consumption of this fruit is steadily increasing all over the civilized world.

Rubber promises well. The trees are growing fast and their power to produce a high grade product has been evidenced by the quality of rubber obtained from old shade trees of the same species grown in the neighborhood of the new plantations.

Tobacco is proving its way. Honolulu people are smoking some Hawaiian tobacco now and its quality is liked. New plantings of tobacco are reported and the complete success of the enterprises is prophesied by the United States Agricultural Experiment Station.

These achievements are gradually but surely bearing out the original hypothesis that Hawaii, far from being a one-crop country, has as good a show to support diversified industries as other lands that lie between the tropic of Cancer and the equator.

The only criticism of small farming we hear now comes from those who persistently and for an ulterior purpose identify small farming with truck farming and by proving, as they easily can, that a white man is not able to raise paying turnips and watermelons in competition with the Asiatics, hope to give diversified agriculture a black eye.

The Advertiser lives in the hope that, by another year, the Territorial government will emerge from old traditions far enough to open up large tracts of public lands for American small farmers and give the Promotion Committee a chance to advertise them and organize mainland colonies, like that of Wahiawa, to occupy them. Kauai, "the closed island," would be a good place in which to begin. A policy like that, pursued for a few years, would "develop Hawaii along traditional American lines" and become a source of general public advantage hard to parallel by any of the beneficent economic policies of the past.

THE REPUBLICANS AND THE SOUTH.

The administration is trying to do some politics in the South for Secretary Taft who is making party speeches in North Carolina and probably elsewhere. For Presidential aspirants the South is a most inviting field, as the Republican party there is mainly confined to Federal office-holders and they name the delegates to national conventions. It was the South, represented by Federal delegates in 1892, which nominated Harrison for the Presidency, despite the opposition of the greater Republican states of the North. In all probability the machine of that section will be running two years hence for the candidate who represents President Roosevelt; and it is deemed desirable now to give that candidate a chance to make Southern acquaintances.

One could wish, however, that the chance to use the South as a "rotten borough" had not so long blinded Republican administrations to the value of an alliance with the best instead of the worst elements of Southern citizenship; and that courses had long ago been taken to give the party a chance to win elections in the Gulf and cotton States by making itself respectable there. It was the alliance of the northern Democrats with the most ignorant and alien class of immigrants which made and still makes their successive defeats comparatively easy; and their policy in that respect has evoked the ready sneer of Republicans. Yet we find Southern Republicans hand in glove with a class of still graver disqualifications. It used to be said with some appearance of truth that a northern gentleman could not be a Democrat; but it is more forcibly true at the present day that a Southern gentleman cannot afford to be a Republican. Yet all over the South are whites who believe in sound currency, a protective tariff, an expanded nation, a strong navy and who are opposed to socialism on the one side and the tyranny of criminal trusts on the other. These men should be Republican and they would be but for the fact that the triumph of that party in the South would mean the mastery of many sections by a negro proletariat. For the sake of future services to the South the Republican party ought to try and make itself honorably acceptable to the whites and to cease the task, worse than that of Sisyphus, of trying to shoulder the huge bulk of negro ignorance and vice up the political hill where the little band of white Americans are gathered trying to save their civilization. That would be a far more honorable status than the one of holding up the negroes for the sake of getting their easily-manipulated vote for successive administration aspirants for President.

THE DAYS OF OPERA BOUFFE.

The Markowe incident, which is told in another column, was one of the most amusing phases of the period of unrest in Hawaii between 1893 and 1898. Markowe, a soldier of fortune, probably ranking as a corporal, advertised in the San Francisco Call for 300 men to join a "South Sea expedition." The item was noted in the city room of the Chronicle and a reporter was detailed to join the expedition. He gathered enough material to make an expose, though owing to the inopportune arrival at a conference of a Honolulu man, who recognized the reporter, the Chronicle failed to get the muster roll and the names of the Royalists here who were in sympathy with the movement. However, there was enough, and the filibusters got a raking fire of cold type which drove them off the sea and under the surveillance of the United States Marshal.

Now comes another chapter of the story, just revealed by Collier's. Baron Harden-Hickey, an adventurer of note, had established himself as King of the barren island of Trinidad, off the coast of Brazil. After notifying all the

powers of his new rank and establishing an order of nobility, he awoke one morning to find that Great Britain had taken his little kingdom for a cable station. After that came the offer of the crown of Kauai, from this same Markowe, an offer which Harden-Hickey probably stopped considering when he read the Chronicle's expose.

Honolulu quite generally hopes that Mr. Frawley will not plan in vain to bring a company of players here next winter. The city has had no season of good theatricals since Frederick Warde came in Shakespearean repertoire and it is eager for well-staged drama.

Rojestvensky goes scot-free but the torpedo boat captain who kept the Japanese from blowing him up is dismissed from the service.

The impression that a coon is getting away with the Kaimuki poultry is not intended as a reflection on the Porto Ricans.

EDWIN BOOTH
IN HONOLULU

The Chicago Herald says:

Edwin Booth once told a little company of his intimates that the most romantic, memorable, and delightful engagement that he ever played in his life was one in which he was obliged to paste his own bills.

It was in the early years of his career, long before his famous hundred nights' run of "Hamlet" at the Winter Garden in New York, and at a time when romance and enthusiasm were still young in his heart. He had played with varying success in many parts of the country, journeying even to San Francisco and the few camps in the gold-bearing country that were large enough to supply him with audiences. Here he had done so well that he felt encouraged to try his fortune in still remoter climes, and accordingly embarked from the Golden Gate for the Hawaiian Islands, where, in the Honolulu Theater and under the direct patronage of the dark-brown royalty that then held sway, he played an engagement to which he looked back in after years with much pleasure and satisfaction.

"But after the play was over," said Booth, "I found it necessary to climb down from the high place of art to common ground and take steps to announce my repertoire to the public. This was done almost entirely by way of posters, and I could not trust the job to the native boys, because they always ate the paste and threw away the bills. My actors would not do it, because they were such eminent artists and thoroughbred gentlemen; so I had to do it myself. Many a time have I taken off the costume of Iago, or Hamlet, or Othello, and gone out with a bucket of paste and a roll of paper to 'bill the town,' as we say here in America, for my next appearance.

A MAN'S HEART
IS TAKEN OUT

PHILADELPHIA, June 11.—For more than forty minutes the pulsating heart of William Wyatt was held in the hands of two physicians in the Pennsylvania Hospital last night while Dr. Richard Hart, hospital surgeon, sewed six stitches in the organ and then replaced it in the body.

Wyatt, who was at first believed to have been fatally wounded, is reported to be resting comfortably and the physicians say they have every reason to believe he will recover. This was the third time such an operation has been performed in the city.

Wyatt and a friend were scuffling for possession of a long knife, when the former slipped and fell on the point. Dr. Hart made an incision in Wyatt's left side long enough to put his hand through, and, taking out the heart, placed it upon the palms of his two assistants and there it lay, throbbing vigorously, as it sent the blood coursing through the arteries.

Examination showed that the knife had inflicted a wound on the heart an inch and a quarter long. In order that the heart's action should not be interfered with, it was necessary for the surgeon to make stitches between pulsations.

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AT 8 A. M.

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20c. Black Voile 10c. yd.
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20c. White Swiss, colored
dots 12½c. yd.
25c. White Basket Cloth..... 1 yds. \$1
25c. Cotton Etamines, colors... 1 yds. \$1
35c. Linen Etamines, colors... 1 yds. \$1
50c. Linen Etamines, em-
broided in colors..... 25c. yd.
60c. Cotton Voiles, colors... 35c. yd.
\$1 White Embroidered Linen... 50c. yd.

Pick out the piece you want from our
WINDOW DISPLAY and be on hand
early MONDAY; good things don't last
long in an EHLERS' sale.

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